

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/070,882
Supplemental Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Page 4

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing expression of a desired protein at mucosal effector sites, said method comprising placing a nucleotide sequence encoding the protein to be expressed under the control of a promoter having a nucleotide sequence of SED ID NO 2, SED ID NO 3 or SED ID 4 or a fragment or variant or any of these which has promoter activity, and causing expression in mucosal cells.

2. (Currently Amended) A construct comprising a promoter selected from the group consisting of P_{empC}, P_{phoP} and P_{pagC} or fragments or variants thereof which can act as promoters, promoter, operatively interconnected with a nucleic acid which encodes a protein, able to induce a protective immune response against an organism a pathogen, in a mammal to which it is administered, wherein said construct contains no further elements of the empC, a phoP or pagC gene.

3. (Previously Presented) A recombinant gut-colonising microorganism which has been transformed with the construct of claim 2.

4. (Previously Presented) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 3 wherein said protein is heterologous to said microorganism.

5-6. Cancelled.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/070,882
Supplemental Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Page 5

7. (Currently Amended) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 3 which ~~comprises~~ is a *Salmonella spp.*

8. (Previously Presented) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 7 wherein the *Salmonella spp.* is *Salmonella typhimurium* or *Salmonella typhi*.

9. (Previously Presented) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 3 wherein the gut-colonising microorganism is attenuated.

10. (Currently Amended) The construct of claim 2 wherein the heterologous-protein is able to induce a protective immune response against *Yersinia pestis*.

11. (Currently Amended) The construct of claim 10 wherein the heterologous-protein comprises an F1-antigen of *Yersinia pestis* or an antigenic fragment or variant thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A vaccine comprising "a" the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 3.

13. (Previously Presented) The vaccine of claim 12 which further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

14. (Previously Presented) The vaccine of claim 12 which is adapted for oral administration.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/070,882
Supplemental Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Page 6

15. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing a protective immune response against a pathogen in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal "a" the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 3.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently Amended) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 3 wherein the heterologous protein is able to induce a protective immune response against *Yersinia pestis*.

18. (Previously Presented) The vaccine of claim 13 which is adapted for oral administration.

19. (Currently Amended) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 9 which comprises is *Salmonella spp.*

20. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim 12 wherein the promoter has the sequences sequence of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3 or SEQ ID NO 4.

21. (Currently Amended) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 19 wherein the *Salmonella spp. spp.* is *Salmonella typhimurium or Salmonella typhi*.

22. (Currently Amended) The recombinant gut-colonising microorganism of claim 17 wherein the heterologous protein comprises an F1-antigen of *Yersinia pestis* or an antigenic fragment or variant thereof.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/070,882
Supplemental Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Page 7

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the promoter is operatively interconnected with a nucleic acid which encodes a protein, able to induce a protective immune response against a pathogen, in a mammal to which it is administered.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the protein to be expressed under the control of a promoter having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 is contained in a recombinant gut-colonising microorganism.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the protein is heterologous to the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism is a *Salmonella spp*.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the *Salmonella Spp* is *Salmonella typhimurium* or *Salmonella typhi*.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism is attenuated.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the protein is able to induce a protective immune response against *Yersinia pestis*.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the protein comprises an F1-antigen of *Yersinia pestis*.

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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/070,882
Supplemental Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Page 8

31. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism is administered as a composition which further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the composition is adapted for oral administration.